



# Wisconsin Crop Progress & Condition



Upper Midwest Region - Wisconsin Field Office · 2811 Agriculture Drive · Madison WI 53718-6777 · (608) 224-4848  
fax (855) 271-9802 · www.nass.usda.gov

Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Vol. 15, No.8  
Issued May 26, 2015

For the week ending May 24, 2015  
Media Contact: Greg Bussler

## Frost Nips the North

There were 5.2 **days suitable for fieldwork** during the week ending May 24th, 2015, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Clear, cool weather meant long hours in the fields for farmers working to finish their spring planting and spraying. Hard frosts midweek impacted emerging crops in northern Wisconsin, with some reporters noting yellowing and signs of stress. Reporters also commented that crop emergence and hay and pasture growth have slowed in response to dry soil conditions. However, warmer temperatures and widespread soaking rains on Sunday improved conditions for much of the state.

**Topsoil moistures** rose thanks to this much-needed rain event, with 20 percent short to very short this week compared to 24 percent last week. Statewide, **subsoil moistures** ended the week at 26 percent short to very short compared to 28 percent the previous week. Rainfall totals at the major weather stations remain behind normal for both the season and the year.

As of May 24<sup>th</sup>, **spring tillage** was 94 percent complete statewide, over two weeks ahead of last year and 12 days ahead of the five-year average.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, **corn** planted was at 93 percent complete, tied for the second highest percent planted by that date in over 35 years. Corn emerged was 69 percent, 14 days ahead of last year and 11 days ahead of the five-year average. The first corn condition of the year was 0 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 15 percent excellent.

**Soybeans** planted was at 74 percent, tied for the second highest percent planted by May 24<sup>th</sup> in over 35 years. Soybeans emerged was 35 percent, 9 days ahead of the five-year average.

**Oats** emerged was at 92 percent, nearly three weeks ahead of last year and just over two weeks ahead of the five-year

average. Oats condition was 85 percent good to excellent, up 2 percentage points from the previous week.

**Potato** planting neared completion, reaching 99 percent statewide.

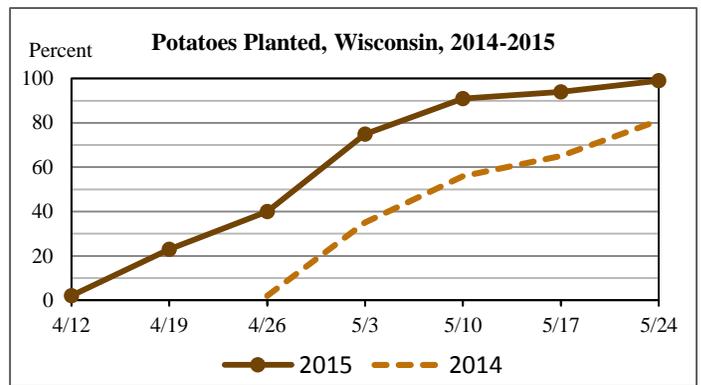
**Winter wheat** headed was at 5 percent, 4 days ahead of last year. Winter Wheat condition was 72 percent in good to excellent condition, up 2 percentage points from the previous week.

**Pasture** condition improved slightly with 71 percent rated good to excellent compared to 69 percent last week.

The **first cutting of alfalfa** was 19 percent harvested, the second highest by May 24<sup>th</sup> in over 35 years and 2 days ahead of the five-year average. Several reporters commented that winter-damaged hay stands were being plowed up after the first harvest.

**All Hay Condition** was 80 percent in good to excellent condition compared to 78 percent last week.

A reporter in Chippewa County noted that winter **rye** is beginning to head out.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 24, 2015

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent				
Corn	0	1	18	66	15
Hay, All	1	4	15	60	20
Oats	0	0	15	67	18
Pasture & Range	1	7	21	57	14
Winter Wheat	1	4	23	53	19

Wisconsin Crop Progress as of May 24, 2015

Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average			
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent												
Corn planted	91	96	91	94	92	97	92	95	94	93	85	63	74
Corn emerged	70	58	58	72	68	74	62	73	79	69	41	18	34
Alfalfa hay, first cutting	6	7	14	16	14	22	30	29	31	19	1	3	15
Oats emerged	88	89	86	95	90	91	94	96	92	92	82	44	66
Potatoes planted	95	97	97	100	100	n.a.	97	95	n.a.	99	94	81	n.a.
Soybeans planted	71	89	83	77	74	88	60	72	69	74	50	35	43
Soybeans emerged	28	25	17	42	44	41	24	39	42	35	9	3	9
Spring tillage complete	92	97	95	97	96	99	97	87	96	94	90	70	82
Winter wheat headed	16	3	3	19	18	2	6	6	2	5	0	3	1

Days Suitable for Fieldwork and Soil Moisture Conditions as of May 24, 2015

Item	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This week	Last week	Last Year
	Days											
Days Suitable	5.2	4.6	6.1	4.5	5.3	5.9	5.6	5.3	4.8	5.2	4.5	5.0
	Percent											
Topsoil Moisture	Percent											
Very Short	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	4	0	1	1	0
Short	10	6	29	12	29	30	27	19	9	19	23	5
Adequate	80	79	70	78	67	67	71	75	87	76	73	74
Surplus	8	15	1	10	2	3	1	2	4	4	3	21
Subsoil Moisture	Percent											
Very Short	2	0	0	1	2	0	3	10	1	2	2	0
Short	16	10	27	18	31	25	31	35	13	24	26	7
Adequate	76	88	70	77	66	72	66	53	83	72	71	80
Surplus	6	2	3	4	1	3	0	2	3	2	1	13

# Wisconsin Crop Progress

## Selected Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

All comments are used in creating this report, but only a few are published below.

**BARRON-T.B.:** Frost midweek set back some corn and potato fields. Many hay fields were being cut. Corn planting is wrapping up and growers were putting in long hours trying to finish soybean planting ahead of forecast thunderstorms.

**CHIPPEWA-J.C.:** Hay harvest started on some fields with good drying conditions earlier in the week. Soybean planting wrapping up under excellent soil conditions.

**MARATHON-S.N.:** Frosty nights midweek; some corn froze and it's too early to know if damage is permanent. Received 1.25 inches of rain this weekend. Some first crop alfalfa cut and quality is good.

**FLORENCE-T.B.:** Frost three nights this past week, two nights were very hard on crops. Corn, hay, and peas in the peas and oats were stressed. Visible damage to leaves and yellowish look in low areas.

**EAU CLAIRE-A.B.:** Good moisture has everything green and growing well. Producers have started with the hay cutting process. The height is average and the windrows are fair size. The quality is very good.

**ST CROIX-D.K.:** Early hay harvest started this week with yields generally very good. Nothing has been tested for quality but should be very good. Snap beans are being planted now and some soybeans are left to plant.

**ADAMS-D.B.:** First few fields of hay being cut. Irrigators running.

**WAUSHARA-K.W.:** Received 1.8 inches of rain Sunday night and Monday morning. Pasture and hay crop have been significantly hurt by water shortage over the past month. Unirrigated hay on sandy soil is only about 12-18 inches tall compared to hay on heavy soil on the east side of the county that is 29-30 inches tall. Pasture regrowth had basically stopped - hay and pasture looked like it normally does around the first week of August.

**MANITOWOC-M.R.:** Planting of crops has pretty much finished up here with three real nice weeks of weather in early May. First crop alfalfa harvest began this past week too.

**WINNEBAGO-D.M.:** Having some browning and yellowing of the leaves in winter wheat in spots in the field.

**VERNON-K.L.:** Early week cool and some first crop hay being cut. Farmers still busy with planting. Corn emerged looks good, but needs some heat. Wet Memorial Day weekend with 2 inches of rain in some areas.

**DANE-F.P.:** Hay making has been going very well with the very good weather. Today we received 0.9 inches of rain thus far. It will help the crops, lawns and trees very much.

**ROCK-C.O.:** Light rain has slowed the first crop hay harvest and final soybean planting. Some are applying Nitrogen to corn and hoping for some warmer weather to get things growing.

**WALWORTH-N.W.:** Almost all planting is complete. A lot of producers have been putting up first crop hay this last week. Rain over the Memorial Day weekend was well needed in the fields.

## Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 24, 2015

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to May 23	Mar. 1 to May 23 normal*	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	67	39	76	30	53	-6	457	349	0.20	6.02	-1.32	6.61	-2.57
Green Bay	69	42	79	33	56	-1	400	292	0.24	3.76	-2.72	4.75	-4.04
La Crosse	71	47	80	40	59	-2	580	405	0.13	6.80	-1.01	8.02	-2.00
Madison	69	46	80	40	57	-2	502	398	1.58	7.79	-0.15	9.20	-1.25
Milwaukee	65	43	78	37	54	-3	319	n.a.	0.21	7.17	-1.46	8.91	-3.29

1/ Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. \*Normal based on 1971-2000 data. n.a.=not available. T=trace Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

For more weather data, please reference the following sites: <http://www.noaa.gov/> <http://www.aos.wisc.edu/~sco/> <http://www.cocorahs.org/> <http://www.weather.gov/>

This report has been made possible through the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and the National Weather Service.